

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 0555Z 131735Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8490

S E C R E T BOGOTA 5552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, CO
SUBJ: STARR KIDNAPPING: MEETING WITH VILLAMIL

1. SORZANO MET WITH VILLAMIL MORNING OF JUNE 13. VILLAMIL SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED IN VEIVA A FIVE-PAGE COMMUNICATION FROM THE FARC THAT WAS SIGNED BY JOSELO. HE LET SORZANO READ THE COMMUNICATION BUT DID NOT LET HIM RETAIN A COPY. IT CONTAINED A SOCIO-POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN THE FARC AREA, DETAILING THE SUFFERING OF THE COMMON PEOPLE AND OTHER CHARGES OF GOVT NEGLECT. THE COMMUNICATION ALSO REFERRED TO AN AMNESTY OFFER THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAD MADE SOME YEARS AGO, EITHER IN THE COURSE OF HIS CAMPAIGN OR AROUND THE TIME HE TOOK OFFICE. THE OFFER APPARENTLY ENTAILED THE PROVISION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE IN THE FARC AREA IF THE GUERRILLAS CEASED THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE COMMUNICATION WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT LOPEZ HAD NEVER IMPLEMENTED HIS OFFER AND ALSO SAID THAT TURBAY WAS NOT LIKELY TO DO SO EITHER. THE COMMUNICATION MADE NO REFERENCE TO STARR. IT WAS DATED JUNE 1.

2. VILLAMIL SAID THAT HE IS NOW CONVINCED THAT THE TWO LETTERS WE HAD RECEIVED EARLIER THROUGH THE MAIL WERE FABRICATIONS. HE BELIEVES THAT IF THEY WERE GENUINE

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THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME REFLECTION OF THEM IN THE COMMUNICATION HE RECEIVED FROM FARC. VILLAMIL SAID THAT HE HAD PREPARED A REPLY TO THE FARC COMMUNICATION AND APPARENTLY LEFT THIS IN NEIVA FOR DELIVERY TO THEM. HE SHOWED SORZANO A COPY. IN IT VILLAMIL AGREES WITH THE FARC ANALYSIS OF THE LOCAL SITUATION BUT HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT HE PLANS TO APPROACH TURBAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE INDICATES IN HIS REPLY THAT

SINCE TURBAY HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO HIM IN THE CASE OF THE DUTCH HONORARY CONSUL WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED A FEW YEARS AGO, HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT TURBAY WILL BE MORE FORTH-COMING AS PRESIDENT THAN LOPEZ WAS. VILLAMIL ALSO ENCLOSED FOR THE FARC

COPIES OF THE TWO LETTERS THAT WE HAD RECEIVED THROUGH THE MAIL. HE TOLD THE FARC IN HIS RESPONSE THAT MRS. JENSEN WAS IN BAD HEALTH, THAT SHE WAS DESPERATE AND ALSO POOR. HE STATED IN HIS LETTER THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE FARC MEANT WHAT IT SAID ABOUT RELEASING STARR WHEN GUARACAS WAS FREE AND HE ADVISED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP THEIR WORD IF THEY WANTED TO KEEP THEIR GOOD IMAGE.

3. VILLAMIL ALSO TOLD SORZANO THAT MANCHOLA HAD DELIVERED MRS. JENSEN'S LAST LETTER TO THE FARC AND THAT FARC REPRESENTATIVES HAD TOLD MANCHOLA THAT THEY WERE WAITING FOR CONFIRMATION THAT GUARACAS WAS FREE AND WOULD THEN RELEASE STARR. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MANCHOLA HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION TO REPORT TO SORZANO AND THIS IS THE REASON WHY HE HAD NOT COME TO BOGOTA. VILLAMIL ADVISED THAT WE SIMPLY WAIT FOR STARR TO BE RELEASED AND HE SUGGESTED SORZANO BRIEF MRS. JENSEN ON THIS INFORMATION AND TELL HER TO HAVE FAITH. (SORZANO WILL BE MEETING WITH MRS. JENSEN LATER TODAY. SHE NOW HAS CONFIRMED RESERVATIONS TO FLY TO WASHINGTON STATE VIA LOS ANGELES).

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Message Attributes

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